

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 21, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims, and each of the rejections set forth in the Office Action has been carefully considered and is addressed below. The claims as presented are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-34 were previously pending in this application. Claims 3, 5, 8-9, 12, 14 and 17-18 are amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 10-11 and 19-34 are cancelled. No claims are added. As a result, claims 3-9 and 12-18 are pending for examination, with claims 3 and 12 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Telephone Interview with Examiner

Applicant's representatives thank Examiner Azad for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting a telephone interview on July 16, 2007. The substance of the interview is summarized herein.

During the interview, the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-11 and 14-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,991 to Skiena et al. ("Skiena") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,882 to Bijl et al. ("Bijl") was discussed. Applicant's representatives explained that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify the system of Skiena according to the teachings of Bijl at the time of the invention, as the references are not combinable in the manner the Office Action contends. In this respect, Skiena discloses a technique wherein each of a group of words entered via a telephone keypad is identified based on syntax-based rules (Abstract). Bijl teaches a system for converting spoken words to text (Abstract). The Office Action contends that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Skiena to process spoken words, as taught by Bijl, instead of words entered via a keypad to "improve recognition accuracy." However, Applicant's representatives pointed out that the system of Skiena requires delimiters to demarcate words and sentences (col. 7, lines 3-5), and that the audio data of Bijl clearly would not include any such delimiters. Thus, the references are not combinable in the manner the Office

Action asserts, irrespective of motivation, and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The Examiner indicated an appreciation for this point but he was non-committal. Accordingly, Applicant's representatives informed the Examiner that the claims would be amended to limit them to the subject matter which the Office Action indicates is allowable (i.e., claims 3-4 and 12-13), with Applicant reserving the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of any of the cancelled claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 5-11, and 14-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Skiena in view of Bijl. Claims 1-2, 10-11, and 19-34 are cancelled, claims 5 and 8-9 are amended to depend from claim 3, and claims 14 and 17-18 are amended to depend from claim 12. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-11, and 14-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been rendered moot.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 3-4 and 12-13, indicating that claims 3 and 12 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claim(s). Claims 3 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1-2 and 10-11, respectively. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 3 and 12, and the claims that depend respectively therefrom.

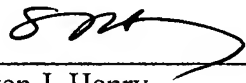
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: 8/21/07

Respectfully submitted,

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